

# Why Brainy Men Often Marry Frivolous Wives

Mrs. Cooper Hewitt's Ankle and \$100,000 Diamond Bangle Which Have Occasioned Some Discussion.

## Mrs Peter Cooper Hewitt, the Vivacious Young Wife of the Distinguished Scientist and Inventor, Sticks Out Her Bejeweled Ankle to Be Photographed and Her Whimsical Caprice Amuses Her Serious-Minded Husband

MRS. PETER COOPER HEWITT, wife of a distinguished electrical inventor, walked down the gangplank of the Mauretania the other day, wearing a conspicuous bangle on her ankle.

It was a striking creation of the artistic jeweler, a flexible band studded with diamonds. Its designer was a society artist of note, Robin d'Erlanger, son of Baron d'Erlanger, the well-known Parisian financier. Its value was estimated at \$100,000.

Mrs. Hewitt displayed the jewel on a very suitable background—a shapely, silken ankle. Somebody asked her when she had taken up this fashion and she answered, "Take it up! I originated it."

And Mrs. Peter Cooper Hewitt amiably stuck out her foot for the photographers to aim at as they caught in their cameras the bejeweled ankle which is shown above on this page.

If a chorus girl had done this very thing everybody would smile and say "silly press agent nonsense."

But Mrs. Peter Cooper Hewitt does not need public notoriety. She is the wife of a New York multi-millionaire of established social and scientific standing.

Then why did she do it?

Why did Mrs. Peter Cooper Hewitt have a diamond anklet made for herself and display it in public?

And why should she be pleased to have her bejeweled anklet photographed for public exhibition?

And would a frivolous freak of this kind amuse or meet the approval of a serious-minded man of science who has spent a lifetime in the silence of his laboratory?

These seemingly trivial details concerning the ankle and the bangle are worthy of consideration, because they form part of a serious problem. Why should a successful scientist of nearly sixty seek happiness with a frivolous woman under thirty without any inclination for serious studies?

We are here faced with one of the deepest problems of human nature, but we must first consider the essential facts about the persons in this case.

Peter Cooper Hewitt has been one of the most productive of electrical scientists. For thirty years he has buried himself in his laboratories. One of his favorite retreats was in the Madison Square Tower. He invented the Cooper Hewitt mercury vapor lamp, which gives light at the lowest cost of any electric lamp and is widely used in factories. He has invented a wireless telephone that will respond to one-hundred-millionth of a horsepower current and a telephone that can be used across the Atlantic. Other inventions are the Cooper Hewitt rectifier to enable direct currents to be used with alternating circuits, a light transformer for altering the wave lengths of a light ray and thus changing its color, a centrifugal separator and several other important contributions to science.

Mr. Hewitt became an inventor because nature made him that way and not because he needed money. He is the grandson of Peter Cooper, who was a noted business man, millionaire and philanthropist. His own father, Abram S. Hewitt, was one of the leading citizens of New York. His family have had great wealth for many generations and they belong to the most fashionable set of the metropolis.

Over twenty years ago Mr. Hewitt married Miss Lucy Work, daughter of Frank Work and sister of Mrs. Burke Roche, a woman of the same set as his own family. In a few years it became apparent that, like many other couples in society, they were not particularly suited to one another. Mrs. Hewitt was very active in society and Mr. Hewitt was not always with her. They had no children. A few

years ago they arranged the divorce that society had long expected.

He buried himself in his laboratory. He became noted for his concentration and seclusiveness. He would never speak of one of his inventions to anybody until he had perfected it.

Then the charmer came. She was originally Marion Andrews, of a Southern family, and married Dr. Pedar Bruguiere, a California millionaire, who moved with her to New York and Newport some years ago. They were divorced at Reno, and shortly afterward Mrs. Bruguiere married Stewart Denning, a New Yorker. He discovered that his first wife's divorce was one of those unsatisfactory affairs that may be good in one State and not in another, and to make sure of matters he had his own marriage annulled.

The liberated charmer went to Newport, and the gayest bachelors of the Summer capital, such as James J. Van Alen and Reginald Vanderbilt, fell under her spell. Cooper Hewitt joined them and, though intellectually quite different from the others, became her most devoted attendant. At the earliest possible moment and with romantic secrecy he was married to Mrs. Bruguiere.

The new Mrs. Hewitt was an adept at dancing and singing and all the arts that appeal to the emotional side of humanity. She was prolific in pranks that would surprise a conventional member of society. It was amazing to see Cooper Hewitt, the mature scientist, the recluse, enter into all her playfulness with the most evident enjoyment.

The charm of a frivolous woman for a serious man has been observed since the dawn of human history. Hercules, the protean hero of antiquity, put on women's clothes and slaved three years for Omphale, who was evidently a frivolous character, while she carried his club and wore his lion's skin. The mighty Samson fell hopelessly into the snare of the enchanting Delilah, who is said to have been a singer.

Coming to more historical characters we find that the Emperor Justinian, the most famous lawmaker of the Roman Empire, married a woman who had belonged to a wandering circus. To marry her he changed a fundamental law forbidding great officers of the empire to marry actresses. Historians say that Theodora continued her carouses in the imperial palace, but on certain critical occasions she helped Justinian greatly.

Antoninus Pius, a Roman Emperor famed for his wisdom, married the notorious Faustina, who was noted for her wit and her improprieties. Antoninus enjoyed all her caprices, and instead of punishing her struck coins and built temples in her honor.

Psychologists have long recognized that there is a law of opposites, according to which men and women are attracted by opposite qualities in one another. If a man possesses tremendous all-round force and ability, his opposite in womanhood may be a nonentity. Too often he finds her. There is doubtless a woman of ideal sweetness and submissiveness who is a fitting mate for the superman, but she is rarely found.

Mr. Henry T. Finck, a high authority on love, says:

"In men of genius their own store of intellect is so great and their admiration for beauty so intense that they are constantly liable to marry silly girls, or before marriage to flirt with one beauty after another without finding satisfaction."

To account for the amorous propensity of genius is easy enough. Genius means creative power allied with a taste for the beautiful. This taste may be gratified by

the contemplation of the beauties of nature—the creative power by reproducing them on canvas or manuscript. But nature's masterpiece is lovely woman, who not only yields the highest gratification of artistic taste, but inspires love. And what is love but a creative impulse—a desire to link one's name and personality in future generations with this embodiment of consummate human beauty?

"Thanks to their passion for beauty," says Mr. Finck, "men of genius are too prone to follow the impulse of the moment and marry a pretty doll in the hope of being able to educate her into an attractive companion. Unluckily it rarely happens that the minds of those beauties are 'wax to receive and marble to retain.' Pretty girls are commonly lazy—spoiled by the thought that their beauty atones for everything and regardless of the future when this apology for indolence will have lost its persuasiveness."

The authorities tell us that all the poets have been ardent seekers after beauty and rarely cared whether brains accompanied it. Shelley, his biographer tells us, "had an irresistible natural tendency to fall in love," and Byron, speaking of one of his loves, says, "I had and have been attacked fifty times, yet I recollect all we said to each other, all our caresses, her furies, my restlessness, sleeplessness."

The leader of men, the statesman, the conqueror, seems driven to seek consolation from a frivolous, pretty woman, and to shun the woman of intellect.

Great men rarely find themselves suitably married. Domestic happiness is the privilege of the ordinary man. Frederic Masson, who analyzed the love affairs of Napoleon Bonaparte, found that no woman ever really loved him. English legends have made a pathetic figure of Josephine, but M. Masson finds that she was really an adventuress who grabbed the young Napoleon as the last chance of saving her from bitter poverty.

Thus the greatest personality of many centuries passed through life without being truly loved, while many low comedians have excited undying devotion.

Nelson, the great admiral, neglected his wife and was pathetically enslaved by a lovely adventuress, Lady Hamilton. The Duke of Wellington could not agree with his wife, a noblewoman of the best family, and found consolation elsewhere.

The great man is almost invariably a hypersthenic, one possessed of abnormal nervous force. This must find an outlet in action; otherwise the force beats upon himself and drives him mad. In his moments of inactivity and waiting he must have amusement. A conventional, digni-



An Attractive Photograph of the Fascinating Young Mrs. Cooper Hewitt.

Mrs. Cooper Hewitt in a Stunning Bathing Costume at Palm Beach.

fied woman, devoted to her home or her palace or her social duties, bores him and maddens him. A frivolous, brainless woman, with a gift for dancing, singing and carousing, soothes him and provides an outlet for his superfluous nervous force.

The society of such a woman brings out the boyish side of his nature and enables him to escape from the dreary prospect offered to him by the conventional, commonplace and stupid beings who surround him.

The rule that applies to the truly great men applies in more or less degree to all men of high ability. All have the nervous force that seeks relief in the society of thoughtless, laughter-loving women.

It is noticeable that men of exceptional intellectual development have rarely been attracted toward women of a similar eminence. Friends of Herbert Spencer, the great philosopher, thought that it would be a fine thing to match him with George Eliot, the novelist, who was probably the most intellectual woman of her day.

Herbert Spencer fled from this proposed match with amusing haste. In his memoirs he remarks that, unphilosophical as it might appear, he had always attached great importance to a fine skin and an attractive color in a woman. Without these qualities noble features had no attraction for him.

Throughout the ages we find records of great men who married incongruous wives and lived happily with them, or married conventional wives and lived unhappily. Shakespeare married a prosperous citi-

zen's daughter and was unhappy. Moliere found amusement in the society of his cook. Her violent and ungrammatical language gave him relaxation.

Goethe at the age of eighty-four fell desperately in love with sixteen-year-old Minna Herzlieb, the daughter of a bookseller. It was her childishness and lack of intellect that charmed him.

The ancient Greeks shamelessly recognized that the conventional wife was not a cheering companion for the man of intellect. In the days of Pericles and Alcibiades the wives were restricted to domestic duties and the men sought companionship with another class of women. Such resources are denied to us to-day and every man must hope for a congenial wife.

A French philosopher makes the interesting observation that men who married dancers have always been happy. The dance, a primitive expression of joy, gives an outlet to a man's energies and makes him feel young again. The serious thinker will find happiness with a thoughtless dancer rather than with a woman reared in his own mental type.

Havelock Ellis, the great authority on woman nature, says that the greatest



Mr. Cooper Hewitt, the Distinguished Electrical Inventor and Husband of the Light-Hearted Beauty, in His Laboratory.

charm of woman is her comparative childishness. The attraction of this quality for a man becomes more potent in proportion as he is removed from the childish stage. The teachings of philosophers, psychologists and physiologists lead to the conclusion that the man of great mental power and concentration is likely to find happiness with a woman who is childlike, fond of laughter, singing and dancing.